

Mayor Ardis granted Privilege of the Floor to Don Forrest of Farnsworth Group.

Don Forrest, Business Development Manager at Farnsworth Group, spoke of the staff at Farnsworth Group living in central Illinois and being educated in central Illinois. He agreed that minorities were hard to find in the architectural field. He said 30% of Farnsworth Group's staff was either minority or female. He said the staff selected to work on the project were selected due to their knowledge of the community. He said they would know many of the non-for-profits and citizens in the community due to their previous work.

Council Member Grayeb spoke of his appreciation of IDG Architects, Inc.'s goal to excite young kids in the community with their backgrounds and interests in architecture.

Council Member Ali expressed her appreciation for both local firms. She applauded IDG Architects, Inc. for opening an office in Peoria. She said the City often doesn't have the uniqueness of an African American owned architecture firm and acknowledged the rareness of African Americans in the field. She said the decision to select IDG Architects, Inc. was easy for her and she encouraged fellow Council Members to select IDG Architects, Inc. also.

In response to Council Member Cyr, Aaron Gunn explained that he had been in Peoria for over fifteen years and that he was sought out by IDG Architects, Inc. to get the Peoria office off the ground. He said the owner of IDG Architects, Inc., based out of Houston, Texas, decided to invest in the City of Peoria. He said the office had been open since June, 2018. He said that he believed exposing African American children to professional services would have a significant impact on their outlook on life.

Motion to award a contract for architectural services related to neighborhood planning, surveys, community engagement, and other services to IDG Architects, Inc. was approved by roll call vote.

Yea: Ali, Grayeb, Montelongo, Rigganbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 6;

Nay: Cyr, Oyler - 2.

Abstention: Moore - 1.

**(19-236)      Communication from Councilman Montelongo with a Request to APPROVE the Following:**

- A) ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the CITY OF PEORIA 2019 REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET Relating to the Use of the General Fund Balance to Provide Funding to Subsidize the Discount on the Purchase of RING SECURITY EQUIPMENT in the Amount of \$50,000.00;**
  
- B) A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT with RING to Subsidize the Discount on the Purchase of RING Security Equipment, with a 50/50 Contribution from RING and the City of Peoria in an Amount Up to \$50,000.00 Each.**

Council Member Montelongo moved to defer this item to the July 23, 2019, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yea: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Rigganbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nay: None.